

THE ELIZABETH G. LEARY SCHOOL
Public School 207
Neil J. McNeill, Jr., Principal

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Teresa Kepertis, Asst. Principal **Noreen Alvarez, Asst. Principal** **Terri Contursi, Asst. Principal**

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome:

Please allow us to take a moment to welcome you to an exciting and eventful school year. We have high expectations for all learners and believe that every student can achieve and exceed these high expectations with the support of family and teachers. We can assure you that we will do all that we can to help ensure academic success.



What We Will Be Learning This Year:

All lessons and units will be aligned with New York State Science and Common Core Learning Standards to ensure students are submersed into a rigorous and academically appropriate level of instruction. Although most of our curriculum will focus on the New York State Science Curriculum, we will also integrate many additional outside resources that will further help all students master the curriculum. We will incorporate a variety of technologies in order to enhance instruction and engage 21st century learners more fully in the classroom. The goal of our work will be to foster critical thinking skills that will enable our students to become thoughtful and analytical members in society. We are confident that our instructional strategies will prepare learners to successfully advance to the next level of their education.



How We Will Be Learning This Year:

The Future of Education: The Flipped Classroom

What is the flipped classroom?

The flipped classroom is a modern teaching approach, whereby technology is employed to shift the traditional role of classroom activities. It aims to meet the needs of the current generation, who have been raised by technology.

The model reverses the role of class time and homework time.

Rather than have students learn material during class time, the flipped classroom approach allows students to explore the topic at home before their classroom session. Through the use of textbooks and online (brain pop and YouTube) videos, students can learn material at their own pace. Classroom sessions are then in turn changed to practical lessons, where students engage in applicational tasks and discussions. The teacher is viewed as a facilitator of the learning process and the students practice how to think rather than what to think.

Goals:

-Increase Understanding and Participation

Many times, students sit in a classroom and “zone out.” The flipped classroom model provides students with more time to interact with the information, skills, each other and the teacher; students have more time to engage in applicational tasks and discussions rather than copy material delivered by the teacher. While the class majority is completing the assigned tasks, the teacher(s) can engage with small groups, providing targeted instruction that meets the direct needs of the students.

-Improve Metacognitive Skills


Metacognition emphasizes an awareness of what is known and what is not understood. Metacognitive practices help students monitor their own thinking and learning strategies so that they are better able to complete particular performances. Students develop deeper understanding of a topic because they are taught how to become more aware of their misconceptions. Because they are given the opportunity to apply the content in a meaningful way, they are driven to initiate questions in order to complete the task(s). When students lack understanding, they learn to explore different resources and ask questions to clarify understanding.

With the continued implementation of this model, the focus will be to improve metacognitive skills which will in turn enhance students’ conceptual understanding and increase student participation and autonomy.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojiebVw800g&feature=emb_title

Grading Policy:

Grading Scale:	
Homework: 10%	Quizzes; Mini-Tasks: 25%
Tests; Projects; Labs: 55%	Participation: 10%

- **Homework:** At-Home-Quizzes will count as homework grades (10%). Assigned workbook pages will be checked randomly for completion and accuracy and graded as homework (10%). Task documents will be checked randomly and will be graded using the notebook rubric as part of the participation grade (10%).
- **Quizzes:** Most quizzes are **cumulative** and will be **unannounced**. This will help to better prepare students for the Regents Exam, which is a cumulative test. Quizzes may take the form of a short Warm-Up/Do-Now.
- **Tests:** Tests will be announced at least 5 days before they are given. Tests will be reflective of the lesson objectives presented throughout the chapter. Please note that midterm and final exams will count twice.
- **Projects:** Projects will allow students to demonstrate their understanding of key concepts through open-ended activities. Most projects will be short term, and students will be given class time to complete them. This is not to say that research and additional work outside of class will not be needed to complete the assignment.
- **Lab:** Lab Science will introduce students to the process of scientific investigations and provide them with the prerequisite laboratory skills to succeed in a high school level laboratory-based course. Students will learn how to safely use laboratory equipment and will also learn inquiry skills such as observing, predicting, inferring, interpreting data, drawing conclusions and making models. Lab grades will be dependent on the student's ability to work collaboratively, complete coherent and scientifically valid lab exercises and lab reports. If a student is absent on a lab day, he/she may or may not be able to make-up the lab. It will depend on the type of lab that was done. If the student cannot make-up a lab, he/she will be given a Lab Make-Up Assignment, which will teach him/her the same concepts and will be worth the same amount of participation points. 
- As per the "Fillmore Academy Academic Expectations and Protocols," assignments eligible for late submission will receive a point deduction and may not be accepted beyond a certain point. *Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Please contact the subject teacher.
- **Plagiarism:** Regardless of intention, plagiarism is presenting the ideas or statements of another (be it from an internet source or a peer) without crediting the original source. Plagiarized assignments will result in a **grade of zero**.
- **Participation:** The class participation grade will be heavily based on the organization and thoroughness of the student's science notebook. Please review the notebook rubric for expectations.

NOTEBOOK RUBRIC			
CATEGORY	3	2	1
Headings	Headings are complete every lesson. (Lesson #, Task #, Date & LT)	Most headings are complete for every lesson.	Few headings are complete – there is missing information.
Notes (Including Socratic Annotations)	All notes were taken; There are many additional (Socratic) annotations.	Most notes were taken; There are additional (Socratic) annotations.	Few notes were taken. There are few additional (Socratic) annotations.
Diagrams	Diagrams are drawn/ taped in and are attractive with labels.	Diagrams are lacking information or attractiveness.	Diagrams are lacking information and attractiveness.
Tasks	All tasks are complete and accurate. There are many details that demonstrate strong understanding of the topic.	Most tasks are complete and accurate. There are details that demonstrate understanding of the topic.	Very few tasks are complete and accurate. There are several missing details.
Neatness/ Organization	Overall notebook is kept very neat. All assignments are kept in order.	Overall notebook is kept at a satisfactory condition. Neatness of notes varies. Several assignments were NOT kept in order.	Overall notebook is kept in below satisfactory condition. Notes are not clearly written. Most assignments are NOT kept in order.

Guidelines and Expectations:

The following expectations will ensure that our classroom remains an effective climate for learning:

Guideline #1: Learners will respect oneself, others, and the environment. (Students will be respected and in turn will behave in an appropriate and respectful manner towards their teachers, their classmates, themselves, and the school building.)

Guideline #2: Students will be ready to learn now, later, and tomorrow. (Students are expected to be present and on time to class every day. At the beginning of each class period, students are expected to be in their assigned seats and prepared for work according to established protocols. Students should stay on task and follow directions the first time they are given. Students are to be prepared for class each day [materials present, homework complete, etc.]. Failure to do so will affect one's grade.)



- Each student is to come prepared to class everyday on time with the following supplies:
 - ✓ Science notebook
 - ✓ Earbuds/ headphones
 - ✓ 2 working writing utensils
- Students will follow all school policies and procedures. (All school policies regarding conduct [gum, iPods, cell phones, uniform, language, etc.] will be enforced in the classroom.) Please review the school's discipline code, as it will be followed closely.
- Learners should not move around the classroom without permission unless it is an emergency.
- Students should be aware that when they are done with their work early, they should review/study vocabulary words. Distracting other students is unacceptable.
- Parents can help their child do well on homework assignments by setting aside a study time each night, encouraging good work habits, and contacting the teacher if there is a problem we can solve together. If absent or late, it will be the student's responsibility to acquire missed classwork and assignments. If a student is absent for any reason, please make sure to have several phone numbers of colleagues in the class to ensure that homework assignments are received. If you need to, you may email the teacher before 6pm. The student will have one day for make-up work for each day missed. Projects, assignments, and tests that were delegated before the student's absence will be due on the day he/she returns to school.

Outcomes/Follow-Up Protocols:

The following protocols are applicable when a student does not follow classroom guidelines/expectations:

- Verbal warning
- Student/Teacher Conference
- Teacher contacts administration
- Teacher contacts parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Administration contacts parent(s)/guardian(s)
- In-school disciplinary action(s) as per NYC/DOE regulations

Communication:

It is strongly suggested that you visit **PupilPath** regularly so that you can monitor progress.

The class website should also be utilized to check for class happenings and resources: **207sci.weebly.com**

Communication and parental involvement are vital to educational success and so we welcome and encourage open communication. Please don't hesitate to email us should you have any additional questions or concerns.

Lastly, we are asking all parents to sign up for Remind101. This communications tool allows parents to receive text messages or emails, directly from the teacher. This serves as a GREAT way to stay current with classroom announcements, assignments, and due dates. Please see back page for instructions.

Please review these points and sign below.

Return the bottom portion of this packet to the teacher and keep the packet for reference.

Sincerely,

Mr. Vega (Rvega12@schools.nyc.gov)



Parent/Guardian and Students sign below and return tear-off to Mr. Vega.

I have read and understand the expectations and policies for the school year in Science Class.

Student's Printed Name

Class

Student's Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian's Printed Name

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

Parents- Please check one box below :

I have signed up for teacher messages using the directions on the back of this sheet.

I will not sign up for teacher messages.

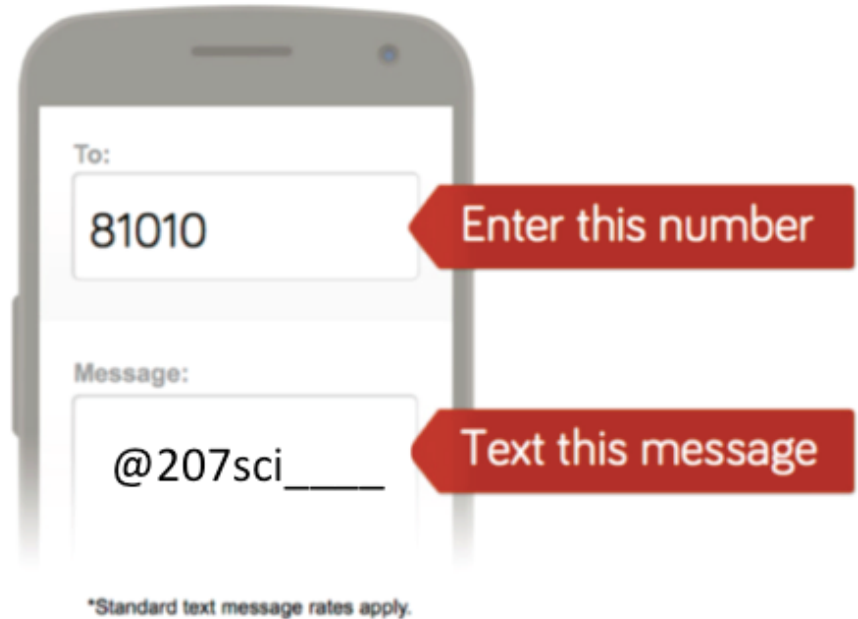
Sign Up For Remind:

8th Grade Living Environment Parents: Please use code @207sci521

Option 1: Teacher Text Messages

When asked to enter your name, please write your son/daughter's name instead.

To receive messages via text, text @207sci_____ to **81010**. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @207sci_____ Trouble using 81010? Try texting @207sci_____ to **(646) 679-5910** instead.



OR

Option 2: Teacher Email Messages

When asked to enter your name, please write your son/daughter's name instead.

Or to receive messages via email, send an email to 207sci_____@mail.remind.com . To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

